

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-10 TRSE-00 AID-05 /071 W

----- 038035

R 061248Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6553

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

CONFIDENTIAL TEL AVIV 2709

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO

SUBJ: DEFMIN PERES ON HUSSEIN READINESS TO

RECOGNIZE ISRAEL

1. REACTING TO QUESTION FROM UJA DELEGATION MAY 5 CONCERNING KING HUSSEIN'S RECENT DECLARATION OF HIS READINESS TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL, DEFMIN PERES REPLIED THAT HUSSEIN SPOKE OF HIS READINESS TO END STATE OF WAR BUT NOT TO MAKE PEACE. ACCORDING TO GOI PRESS BULLETIN, PERES NOTED THAT IN RETURN HUSSEIN WANTS ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM ALL THE TERRITORIES, FIRST AND FOREMOST FROM THE WEST BANK AND JERUSALEM.

2. PRESS BULLETIN GOES ON TO PROVIDE FOLLOWING ELABORATION OF PERES REMARKS: BEGIN QUOTE THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE STRESSED THAT THERE WAS HARDLY AN ISRAELI TO BE FOUND WHO WOULD AGREE TO SUCH A DEMAND. FROM THE TERRITORIAL ASPECT ISRAEL CANNOT RETURN TO A

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NARROW STRIP OF COASTLINE THREATENED BY THE CONSTANT

MENACE OF MISSILES AND OTHER WEAPONS, WHERE EVERY AIRCRAFT TAKING OFF FROM ISRAEL WOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO ONLY AT THE WHIM OF THOSE IN CONTROL OF THESE WEAPONS. FROM THE HISTORICAL ASPECT, THE DEFENCE MINISTER POINTED OUT, THE JORDANIANS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THE MOST MODERATE, BUT IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THEY ATTACKED US TWICE WITHOUT ANY PROVOCATION ON OUR PART - ONCE IN 1948, AND AGAIN IN 1967, WHEN JERUSALEM WAS UNDER THEIR RULE. BOTH THESE ATTEMPTS COMPEL US TO UTMOST CAUTION, MR PERES DECLARED, AND AS FOR THE DECLARATION MADE BY KING HUSSEIN, THAT IF WAR BREAKS OUT AGAIN IN THE REGION HE WOULD PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN IT, THE DEFENCE MINISTER DREW KING HUSSEIN'S ATTENTION TO HIS TWO PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO ATTACK ISRAEL, FOR WHICH HE PAID A VERY HEAVY PRICE. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT. WE FIND IT SOMEWHAT DISHEARTENING--BUT NOT TOO SURPRISING--TO FIND PERES TROTTING OUT "EVERY AIRCRAFT WILL BE IN DANGER" THEME IN RESPONSE TO STATEMENT BY HUSSEIN. THIS HAS USUALLY BEEN USED TO HIGHLIGHT DANGERS TO ISRAEL FROM WEST BANK CONTROLLED BY PLO. WHETHER INTENDED OR NOT, RESULT OF HIS REMARKS IS TO HEIGHTEN IMPRESSION THAT WHERE WEST BANK IS INVOLVED MANY ISRAELIS ARE AS CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT" TO DISCUSS AS ABOUT "WHO" TO DISCUSS IT WITH.

VELIOTES

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